

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SY-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 /110 W

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P R 050520Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 687

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1506

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON PRISONERS; DENIAL THAT

GEN SUMITRO AND OTHERS ARRESTED; STUDENT AFFAIRS

REF: JAKARTA 1402

1. ACCORDING PRESS, DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN GEN SUMRAHADI HAS DENIED REPORTS THAT GENERAL SUMITRO, NASUTION AND DJATIKUSUMO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. IN MEETING WITH REPORTERS FEB 4, SUMRAHADI REITERATED THAT POPULACE SHOULD BE VIGILANT AGAINST RUMOR MONGERING. SUMRAHADI SAID THAT STARTING TODAY, FAMILIES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT DETAINEES. ALSO ACCORDING PRESS, SPOKESMAN FOR JAKARTA BRANCH OF SECURITY (KOPKAMTIB) DENIED AN EARLIER PRESS REPORT THAT 300 PRISONERS WOULD BE TRIED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN JAN 15-16 RIOTS. SPOKESMAN SAID INVESTIGATIONS STILL UNDER WAY AND NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL NOT YET KNOWN.

COMMENT: VOLUME OF RUMORS SUGGESTING SUMITRO IS ON HIS WAY OUT (AND OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO DISCREDIT HIM) IS NOW RUNNING AT RECORD LEVELS, NO DOUBT THANKS IN LARGE PART TO ALI MURTOPO'S PARTISANS.

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WHATEVER SUMRAHADI'S INTENTIONS, HIS PUBLIC DENIAL OF RUMORS (AND

HIS LINKAGE OF SUMITRO'S NAME WITH THOSE OF NASUTION AND DJATIKUMUSO BOTH SEMI-RETIRED AND PERENNIALY RESTLESS FIGURES) WILL INEVITABLY STIR FURTHER SPECULATION. END COMMENT

2. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US SOEDJATMOKO TOLD POL COUNSELOR FEB 4 THAT TWO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND OF GOVERNMENT PARTY(GOLKAR) LEADERSHIP RECENTLY ARRESTED WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT. THEY ARE DRS MEDIAN SIRAIT, SECRETARY FOR INTELLECTUALS, AND RAHMAN TOLLENG, SECRETARY FOR FARMERS AND FISHERMAN. BOTH TOLLENG AND SIRAIT ARE INTELLECTUALS WHO DECIDED TO PLAY BALL WITH ALI MURTOPO AND GOLKAR BEFORE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1971. TELLING WAS PROMINENT "GENERATION OF '66" STUDENT LEADER IN BANDUNG WHO FOR SOME TIME HAS BEEN KNOWN TO BE UNHAPPY WITH GOLKAR'S UNSPECTACULAR PROGRESS IN ATTACKING SOCIAL ISSUES AND RECENTLY RESIGNED EDITORSHIP OF GOLKAR DAILY "SUARA KARYA." HE IS STILL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (DPR) AND HEAD OF GOLKAR FARMER'S FRONT (HKTI). MEDIAN SIRAIT IS LESS WELL KNOWN FIGURE FROM SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY AT PAJAJARAN UNIVERSITY IN BANDUNG WHO (TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE) HAS BEEN LOYAL MURTOPO STALWART. COMMENT: PATTERN OF ARRESTS AND RUMORS STRONGLY INDICATES THAT TOP-LEVEL INFIGHTING IS CONTINUING. END COMMENT.

3. AFTER REPORTING TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO FOLLOWING MEETING OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS, NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION SJARIF THAJEB DENIED THAT RECENT DECISION BY HIS MINISTRY IMPOSED LIMITS ON SUBJECTS (SUCH AS POLITICS) THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED ON CAMPUS. HE SAID THAT ANYTHING COULD BE DISCUSSED SO LONG AS DISCUSSION WAS ORDERLY, ADDING THAT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM "STILL NECESSARY." ACCORDING PRESS THAJEB ALSO SAID THAT STUDENTS INVOLVED IN JAN 15-16 RIOTS, WHETHER FOR POLITICAL OR CRIMINAL MOTIVES, WOULD BE EXPELLED(DIPECAT).
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